

Appl. No. 09/983,007
Amdt. dated April 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2004

R E M A R K S

In the Office Action, restriction was made among the various claims. Claim 8 was said to be generic. The remaining claims 9-14 were classified in separate categories of invention, as set forth in the Office Action, such that claim 9 is in category I, Claims 10-11 are in category II, and claims 12, 13 and 14 are respectively in categories III, IV and V. Also, for a category having more than one claim, further restriction was required between species A, B, and C reading respectively on Fig. 3, 4 and 5.

Applicants hereby elect generic claim 8, and claim 9 of invention category I for prosecution at this time. The remaining claims 10-14 are withdrawn from prosecution, but are to be examined upon allowance of generic (linking) claim 8, and may be presented in a divisional application.

This election is believed to place this case in condition for examination, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide an action on the merits.

In the event there are any further issues outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney for applicant at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Rocco Mertsching, et al

by: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Election is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope address to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 22, 2004.

Dated: April 22, 2004

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